1-3-67

A84
China Purge S

(Hassel — This is taken from the AP wire. It deals with Masferrer. — Hal)

A84 MH

URGENT

Key West, Fla. -- Fourth add Invasion XXX Stop VA. ?"

The huge Cuban exile colony in Miami has circulated rumors for months that an invasion of Haiti was in the making.

The details were not a well kept secret. A CBS camera crew has reportedly been filming the plotting for six months, beginning in a New York basement.

A top CBS News executive came to Miami two months ago to set up a command post to direct coverage of the invasion once it left American shores.

Late in November, there were reports that the invasion had started. But on Nov. 23, bitter Cuban exiles began to talk details, and it turned out that the invasion plans fell apart.

Napoleon Vilaboa, 29, a one time rebel Army captain in Cuba, said he was approached to be chief of military operations. He said he agreed on the understanding he would have support from the * U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

He said he was also told he would get air cover from a B26, a DC3, and four single-engine planes equipped with machine guns.

Just days before the invasion was to begin, Vilaboa said, he and Masferrer split and he and his military staff quit.

Early in December, the Haitian consul in Miami, Eugene Maxmilien, said that Masferrer had offered to call the invasion off for $200,000. Maxmilien said he relayed the offer to Duvalier, who turned it down.

Masferrer denied the charge. He said he had never Maxmilien.

SJ 622 AESNM.

Jan 3rd 1967

EA137 MH

Key West, Fla. -- First add invasion NL (438-40-83 MH) XXX IN November.

Among the would-be invaders jailed at Key West were American Joe Garmon, Martin Casey, Paul Theonore and William Heuisler and the lone woman member of the force, Cuban exile Anna Poggio. Exiles said she was the group's "Quartermaster."

Recognizance bonds of $100 each were set for about 50 of those arrested. Bond was set at $ 5,000 for Masferrer.

U.S. Attorney William A. Meadows said he is checking to see if Masferrer is in violation of a Federal parole stemming from previous immigration illegal entry action against him.

22 927 PES NMS

(1)

£ A69! MH
Night lead invasion (350)
By Theodore A. Ediger
Associated Press Writer

Key West, Fla., Jan. 4 (AP) – The only woman in a helter-skelter invasion force aimed at Haiti and Cuba vowed today that the group will try again.

"That was not our first attempt, nor will it be the last. We want to liberate Haiti first, then Cuba," Dr. Aurea Esther Poggio said before she and two dozen men were arraigned on charges of violating neutrality laws.

Dr. Poggio, a 31-year-old brunette who holds a doctorate degree from the University of Havana and others were arrested yesterday in a lightning raid by U.S. customs agents moments before they were to leave the Florida Keys.

Plans of the miniature army called for ousting President Francois Duvalier in Haiti, then sneaking across the windward passage to Cuba for an insurrection against Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Wearing a black oversized man's windbreaker, Dr. Poggio said she joined the army because of her long friendship with its leader, Rolando Masferrer, who called Tiger by his associates.

While the men were lodged in Monroe County Jail, Dr. Poggio was in a clinic for treatment of an injury she said she received when agents arrested the revolutionaries.

"My left kidney was bleeding," Dr. Poggio said. "An officer struck me with a machine gun. It was brutal."

The clinic said her injury was not serious.

£
A 70 MH

"I wish I could [redacted] understand the policy of your government better," she said. "Only 100 miles away Communism flourishes and nothing is done about it. And the government will not even let those who want to do something about it do it."

Appearing in battle dress before U.S. Commissioner William Alburg in groups, the commandoes were told to show up for arraignment Jan. 25.

They were freed on bonds ranging from $100 to $5,000.

Among them was the Rev. Jean Baptiste Georges, a Canadian-educated Haitian Roman Catholic priest, designated by the revolutionaries to assume the presidency in Haiti.

"Soldier of Fortune? Bah!" said an American, Carmen (CQ) Cavendish, 36 of Miami. "I lost nearly $100 worth of arms and ammunition. I've been in this business for six years. I've got a lifetime ahead. Many more persons participated in the Haiti deal than are here or in Miami."

The defendants were charged with conspiracy to export arms without a license. All but Masferrer were released. He was detained by Immigration

(over) →

official and taken to Miami.

Enraged that their leader was still in custody, several members of the group kicked the side of the car as it bore Masferrer out of town. Several threatened to drive to Miami and free him.

Masferrer was held on a charge he violated Immigration orders that he remain in New York City.

SJ—MDS 90 PES NM

Hold → Check NY Times Jan-6, 1967 story on "Masferrer faces two charges in Aftermath of Haiti 'Invasion'"

£A 129 MH

--URGENT--

PRECEDE WASHINGTON

Miami, Fl., Feb 27 (AP)—[redacted] A former Cuban Senator, an exiled Haitian priest and five other men were indicted today on charges of conspiring to invade Haiti from the Florida Keys last month.

They were among 75 battle-clad exiles and American adventurers rounded up Jan 2 when customs agents barged into their camp on a secluded island near Marathon, a small arsenal was confiscated.

The indictments were returned by a federal grand jury in Miami. Acting Atty Gen. Ramsey Clark announced in Washington that the charges had been made.

Clark said 4th GRAF A 117

BU 1057 AES

£ B81

INDICTMENTS NL (180)

27(?) Feb. 1967

Miami, Fla., Feb 27 (AP)--Seven men, including a Roman Catholic priest and a former Cuban Senator, were indicted today on charges of conspiring to invade Haiti last month from the Florida Keys.

Six of the defendants were arrested in a roundup of 75 exiles and American adventurers Jan. 2 on a secluded island near Marathon in the Keys. Customs agents said they confiscated a small arsenal.

Acting Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said in Washington that the seven were charged with conspiring to violate a Federal law forbidding preparing or launching from the United States a military expedition against a nation with which the United States is at peace.

Conviction can bring a maximum prison sentence of five years and a fine of $10,000.

Named in the indictment were:

-- Rolando Masferrer Rojas, 49, a Cuban citizen and former Cuban Senator, who now lives in Miami.

-- The Rev. Jean Baptiste Georges, 47, a priest and former Haitian Minister of Education. He lives in Miami.

-- Antonio Jean Rojas, 52, a Cuban living in Miami.

-- Rene Nunez Leon, 32, a Haitian citizen living in Elmhurst, N.Y.

-- Julio Otoniel Constanzo Salas, 30, a Cuban living in Miami.

-- Martin Francis Xavier Casey, 28, a U.S. citizen living in Miami.

-- Mitchell ~~Langston~~ Livingston Iler Bell III, 48, a U.S. citizen, living at Ponte Senega, Ga.

All except Bell were among the 75 arrested Jan. 2 at Marathon, Fla.
The indictment also charged rifles and machine gun parts had been delivered to a house on Southwest 12th St. in Miami.
Another count, which named all except Bell, charged the men with attempting to export arms and other war supplies without a license from the State Department. This carries an additional penalty of two years imprisonment and a $25,000 fine.
The indictment said on Dec 27, 1966, Francisco Sanchez, named as a co-conspirator, paid about $750 at Marathon, Fla., for the rental of a house at Coco Plum Beach, Fla. The house was to be used to assemble those taking part in the invasion & their arms.
It said also that Bell paid $15,000 to a Richard Harvey at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to purchase the vessel "Good Richard" last Sept. 12.
Also named as coconspirators, but not as defendants, were David Cabeza, Carlos Octavio Marban, also known as El Gordo, and Julio Cesar Hornilla.

AG 1036 AES